

With respect to independent claims 1, 2, and 5, for example, Wang does not teach or suggest the claimed method, attachment structure, or board connector having “an attachment arm, independent of said positioning projection, provided at a side surface of the board connector and extending in the attachment direction.”

The Examiner’s position is that the lock portions of the board lock 120 of Wang’s “prior art” electric connector assembly 100 corresponding to the claimed positioning protrusion. In addition, the Examiner interprets an unidentified feature of Wang’s “prior art” electrical connector (labeled attachment arm by the Examiner) as corresponding to the claimed attachment arm. See Attachment A- Wang’s Fig. 1 modified by the Examiner.

However, this unidentified feature appears to merely correspond to a projection or terminal that extends from the connector, and not the claimed “attachment arm.” It appears that the unidentified feature has structure that is similar to the projections or terminals that extend from the attachment surface of second connector 2 of the first embodiment of Wang shown in Figs. 3-5. See, for example Fig. 3. If, however, this unidentified feature is a projection or terminal extending from the bottom of the second connector 2, then it does not correspond to the claimed attachment arm.

Claims 1-4, 8, and 9

In claims 1 and 2, the claimed method and attachment structure require that the board connector is fixed to the circuit board when *the attachment arm is engaged with an attachment portion* of the circuit board. In contrast, if the unidentified features of Wang are projections or terminals, they do not fix the connector 100 to an attachment portion of the board, but instead

merely position the connector. Furthermore, the attachment portions are not provided at “a side surface of the board connector,” but instead are provided at the attachment surface. *See* Attachment A.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 2 for the reasons discussed above, and request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 at least because of their dependency from one of claims 1 and 2.

Claims 5-7

With respect to claim 5, the “attachment arm” has an “engagement projection at a tip thereof.” There is no teaching or suggestion of this projection at a tip of the unidentified portion alleged to be attachment arms by the Examiner. In addition, as is discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 2, these unidentified features are not “provided at a side surface of the board connector.”

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 5 for the reasons discussed above, and request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 6 and 7 at least because of their dependency from claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 10/052,397

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

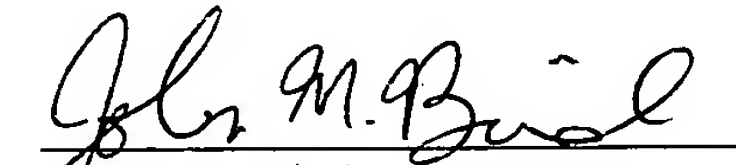
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE


John M. Bird
Registration No. 46,027

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